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ABSTRACT

This survey provides information on the existence of foreign language requirements for accreditation purposes on the elementary/secondary level in each of the 50 states. Where there is a requirement, the source of the requirement is specified as well as its nature and extent. It was found that 25 states have such a requirement. (AMH)

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SURVEY OF STATES REQUIRING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

for

State School Accreditation

Conducted Summer 1981

by

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SURVEY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE ACCREDITATION - SPRING 1981

<u>STATE</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>NATURE</u>
Alabama	No		
Alaska	No		
Arizona	No		
Arkansas	No		
California	Yes	Legislation	"...the adopted course of study for grades 7 through 12 shall offer courses in the following areas of study: foreign language or languages, beginning not later than grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking, reading, and writing the particular language."
Colorado	Yes	State Board	"...shall offer a program of studies which includes 30 units...distributed among the following fields: language arts, social studies, science, mathematics, foreign language..."
Connecticut	Yes	Legislation	One or more foreign languages must be offered, "at least at the secondary level."
Delaware	No		
Florida	No		
Georgia	Yes	State Board	A new standard currently being field-tested with the prospect of being adopted for next year reads: "The high school offers instruction in the following subject areas: English/language arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Health and Safety, Music, Visual Arts, Foreign Languages, Home Economics, Vocational Education, Physical Education."
Hawaii	No		

<u>STATE</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>NATURE</u>												
Idaho	Yes	State Board	Minimum Program of Studies---"Opportunity for proficiency in a given foreign language is highly recommended, with at least the equivalent of two years being offered...Minimum number of units of course work in schools of various enrollments shall be as follows:												
		FL	<table><tr><td>Up to 200</td><td>200-500</td><td>500-800</td><td>800-1200</td><td>1200-1800</td><td>over 1800</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr></table>	Up to 200	200-500	500-800	800-1200	1200-1800	over 1800	2	2	3	3	6	9
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2	2	3	3	6	9										
Illinois	No														
Indiana	Yes	State Board	There are four levels of state accreditation. (1) Certified, Commissioned Schools: The school must offer the possibility of earning or achieving four credits in any foreign language (4 semesters). The Minimum they can offer any one year is two credits (2 semesters). (2) Continuous, Commissioned Schools: Same and Number 1. (3) First Class, Commissioned Schools: "All first class commissioned schools shall offer a minimum of 2 years of study in <u>two</u> different foreign languages." (4) Special First Class, Commissioned Schools: "A minimum of four years of study in one foreign language and two years in a second shall be offered."												
Iowa	Yes	Legislation	Two units minimum in a foreign language, although the courses may be offered on alternate years. (Provided there is no break in the progression of instruction from one year to the next.) A qualified staff member must be employed and the subject must be offered to the students. The FL program must be promoted by the district; it must be in the curriculum information and student handbook. If these conditions are met and no students enroll, the requirement may be waived by the State Board upon request from the local district.												
Kansas	No														
Kentucky	Yes	State Board	Applies only to a four year high school. CURRENT: two levels of FL for Standard Accreditation rating; three levels of one language or two levels in each of two languages for a Comprehensive Accreditation rating. PROPOSED: three levels in any language listed in the State Program of Studies, i.e., French, German, Hebrew, Latin, Russian, Spanish. This would eliminate the two-tier levels of accreditation.												

<u>STATE</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>NATURE</u>
Louisiana	No*		*(However, a petition from 25 percent of the heads of households with children in the schools makes foreign language instruction mandatory, with instruction provided by state-approved teachers.)
Maine	Yes	State Board	At least one foreign language; preferably a four year sequence.
Maryland	No		
Massachusetts	No		
Michigan	No		
Minnesota	No		
Mississippi	No		
Missouri	Yes	State Board	A Foreign Language offering is only a firm requirement for Class A schools; Class AA and Class AAA schools are able to at least partially substitute electives in lieu the foreign language requirement.
Montana	No		
Nebraska	No		
Nevada	No		
New Hampshire	Yes	State Board	Three units of foreign language study and, in addition, recommends "that a minimum of four full years of college preparatory instruction be available in each of the five major subject areas of English, Science, Mathematics, Social Science, and Foreign Language."
New Jersey	No		
New Mexico	No		
New York	No		

<u>STATE</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>NATURE</u>
North Carolina	No		
North Dakota	Yes	State Board	Accreditation is <u>not</u> mandatory. Level One - four credits in foreign language to be offered. Level Two - two credits (one language. Level Three - no FL requirement.
Ohio	Yes	State Board	Comprehensive high schools must "schedule and operate each year in grades nine through twelve in separately organized classes with students enrolled" a minimum of 2 units of foreign language. (Junior high schools that include the ninth grade must schedule a minimum of one unit of FL.) The proposed new minimum standards would require 4 units of one language or 2 units each of two languages. The proposed new standards will be K-12 rather than elementary, junior high school, high school as they are now.
Oklahoma	No		
Oregon	Yes	State Board	"The school district shall provide all students with elective educational opportunities...which...include...foreign language." "Where small schools have difficulty in providing traditional courses in foreign language, opportunities can be provided through nearby community colleges, correspondence courses, or through the use of audiovisual programs."
Pennsylvania	Yes	State Board	"Required Offerings. Foreign Languages. At least two (languages) in each school system, one of which shall be a modern foreign language given in a minimum four year sequence."
Rhode Island	Yes	Legislation	Whenever twenty high school students apply for a course in Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish, the school committee must arrange for a course in these languages to be taught by a competent instructor.
South Carolina	Yes	Legislature	Every public secondary school must Offer at least two years of foreign language instruction and there <u>must</u> be students enrolled in these classes (they can't just list the course in the books). One exception applies to schools whose total enrollment is less than 300: they may alternate first and second year courses when membership does not justify offering the two levels concurrently.

<u>STATE</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>NATURE</u>
South Dakota	No		
Tennessee	No*		*(Foreign language offerings are NOT required for state accreditation; however, IF one unit of FL is offered, then a second unit must likewise be offered.)
Texas	Yes	Legislature	"To the extent possible every school district which has Kindergarten through grade 12 must offer languages to its students." (Passed by the legislature June 1, 1981 as part of a curriculum bill which includes languages as part of a well-balanced curriculum. The State Board is currently developing policies to interpret the legislation.
Utah	Yes	State Board	A Foreign Language (in schools of 350 or more).
Vermont	Yes	State Board	All high schools (grades 9-12) must offer at least one foreign language taught at three levels.
Virginia	Yes	State Board	Three units (years) must be offered ("offered" is defined as "courses taught." The state does not mandate that all three units must be in the same language, but most schools try to build at least one three-year sequential program.
Washington	Yes	State Board	Secondary requirement - three years of one language. FL must be offered in junior high schools, but there is no specification of how much. (It should be noted that during the restructuring of the accreditation program, a school district can elect a different kind of approach to accreditation under which no requirement would apply. The "regular" program contains the above requirement.)
West Virginia	No*		*There is no state wide accreditation; however, schools can be "classified" upon completion of a certain number of questionnaire items. One requirement for classification is that the school (secondary) offer foreign language.
Wisconsin	No		
Wyoming	No		